

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Previously cancelled).

Claims 5-11 (Cancelled).

B1
Claim 12 (Previously cancelled).

Claims 13-18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (Previously cancelled).

Claim 20 (Cancelled).

21. (Added) A system for controlling a plurality of environmental maintenance equipment based on an open client-server architecture, comprising:

at least one client or user interface for providing messages for controlling the plurality of environmental maintenance equipment, receiving responses containing information about the plurality of environmental maintenance equipment;

b) at least one client or user interface messaging control, each associated with a respective one of the at least one client or user interface;

interface control servers, each for controlling a respective one of the plurality of environmental maintenance equipment; and

interface control server messaging controls, each associated with a respective one of the interface control servers, the interface control server messaging controls and the client or user interface messaging controls exchanging messages and communicating with each other using a common messaging control protocol for controlling the plurality of environmental maintenance equipment.

22. (Added) A system according to claim 21, wherein the common messaging control protocol is transmission control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP).

23. (Added) A system according to claim 21, wherein the common messaging control protocol is text messaging.

24. (Added) A system according to claim 21, wherein each interface control servers communicate with a respective interface control server messaging control using interprocessing calls/events.

B1
25. (Added) A system according to claim 21, wherein the at least one client or user interface, the at least one client or user interface messaging control, the interface control servers, interface control server messaging controls, or a combination thereof, form part of different domains including either a personal computer (PC), a local area network (LAN), the world wide web (WWW), or a combination thereof.

26. (Added) A system according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of environmental maintenance equipment includes an irrigation system, a pump station, a weather station or other environmental maintenance equipment.

27. (Added) A system according to claim 21, wherein the client or user interface includes a system control and data acquisition (SCADA) having a messaging control arranged therein.

28. (Added) A system according to claim 21, wherein the client or user interface includes one or more site managers, each having a messaging control arranged therein.

29. (Added) A method for controlling a plurality of environmental maintenance equipment based on an open client-server architecture, comprising the steps of:

providing with at least one client or user interface messages for controlling the plurality of environmental maintenance equipment, receiving responses containing information about the plurality of environmental maintenance equipment;

associating each of the at least one client or user interface messaging control with a respective one of the at least one client or user interface;

controlling with interface control servers the plurality of environmental maintenance equipment;

associating each of a plurality of interface control server messaging controls with a respective one of the interface control servers; and

exchanging messages and communicating between the interface control server messaging controls and the client or user interface messaging controls messages using a common messaging control protocol for controlling the plurality of environmental maintenance equipment.

30. (Added) A system according to claim 29, wherein the common messaging control protocol is transmission control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP).

B1
end

31. (Added) A system according to claim 29, wherein the common messaging control protocol is text messaging.